



## **Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission**

**Tuesday, August 27, 2013**

**5:00 PM**

### **University Club, University of Louisville, Belknap Campus Meeting Minutes**

#### **I. Welcome and Announcements – Henry Heuser, Jr. and Katy Schneider, LMTAC Co-chairs**

The following Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, “Commission” or “LMTAC”) members were present: Henry Heuser, Jr. (Co-chair), Katy Schneider (Co-chair), Allen Steinbock (Secretary-Treasurer), Paul Cappiello, Cheri Bryant Hamilton, Mesude Duyar, Robert Eberenz, Jr., Scott Hannah, Todd Eberle, Monica Orr, and Maria Koetter, as well as Ex-officio members Michelle King, Sherie Long, and Mark White. Mary Ellen Wiederwohl, Chief of Strategic Initiatives, was also present, representing the Mayor’s office.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes – Henry Heuser, Jr.**

Co-Chair Henry Heuser, Jr. asked for and received unanimous approval of the minutes from last meeting.

#### **III. Old Business**

##### **a. Update from Office of Sustainability – Maria Koetter, Director of Sustainability**

Henry asked Maria Koetter, Louisville Metro Sustainability Director and Commissioner on behalf of the Louisville Metro Department of Economic Growth and Innovation, to update the Commission on old business. Maria reported that interviews have begun for the Urban Forrester position. She also stated that the RFP for the tree master plan went out at the beginning of August and will close on September 11.

##### **b. Update from Brightside – Gina O’Brien, Director**

In Gina’s absence, Mary Ellen Wiederwohl, Deputy Mayor and Chief of Strategic Initiatives, said that she is excited to move forward quickly on LMTAC initiatives, especially new tree plantings. She also addressed any remaining confusion as to what Brightside’s role in tree-related business will be. She explained that while the Commission will handle tree strategies, Brightside’s role will be more tactical, i.e., plantings, neighborhood relations, etc. Mary Ellen also noted that the “re-invigorated” Brightside Board had just met and it included ex-officio representatives from virtually every organization related to “clean and green” initiatives.

Co-Chair Katy Schneider mentioned that the newest Commissioner, Kenya West, who was recommended by Metro Councilwoman Attica Scott, will begin serving at the next meeting.

**c. Report on tree-related discussion with Vanessa Burns, Director, Louisville Metro Public Works and Assets – Henry Heuser, Jr.**

Henry said that he had recently met with Vanessa Burns, Director of Louisville Metro Public Works and Assets, and that they will be meeting regularly every six months. He spoke about the need for enlarging tree wells Downtown to ensure trees planted there have sufficient space to grow. He also said that Public Works currently has \$400,000 allotted for sidewalk improvements.

**d. Site selection recommendations for trees to be planted with Metro's tree budget – Mike Hayman, Chair of Projects and Maintenance Committee**

Mike Hayman, Co-chair of the Projects and Maintenance Committee, handed out a list of recommended tree planting sites developed by the committee (Attachment A). These sites are on public or right of way property and are intended to guide the fall round of tree planting by Louisville Metro Government. He reported that among the sites listed on the spreadsheet that there are about 40 potential tree sites at the Urban Government Center and the potential for possibly 100 trees along 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Commissioner and Metro Councilwoman Cheri Bryant Hamilton proposed that trees should be planted in order to buffer the area around Brandeis Elementary School. An audience member, Marty Storch, Metro Parks Assistant Director of Operations, said that Parks has staff at the Southwest Government Center that could assist in plantings in that area. Gina O'Brien said that Brightside and Brown-Forman are planting 100 trees along Garland Avenue and that Metro Councilman Kevin Kramer has offered to match tree plantings in the Hurstbourne area.

Ex-officio Commissioner (APCD) Michelle King explained that the list of recommended planting sites was developed in response to a request from Brightside, who will be managing the planting funds, for advice in siting the trees to be planted with Metro's tree budget. The list presented to the Commission included sites that Committee recommended planting in the fall. Some of these may start small and lead to larger planting projects in the spring as the logistics of each planting site are worked out. She also explained that the sites for the list were chosen with the following criteria in mind:

1. Canopy need
2. Available planting sites
3. Maintenance resources
4. Geographic diversity

Cheri asked if these plantings will exhaust Metro's fiscal year 2014 tree budget. Michelle answered no, there will likely be more plantings in the spring.

Mesude Duyar, Ex-officio Commissioner (Metro Parks), said that Parks plans on planting 500 or more trees in urban areas.

Mike explained that there are a lot of planting efforts currently underway and he doesn't know about all of them, urging all involved to be sure to communicate with each other. Henry asked where all the Eco-Tech donated trees are going this year and Mike responded that that information can be found on a list he distributed at the May LMTAC meeting. Mary Ellen Wiederwohl said that Brian Bingham, MSD Senior Engineer and Brightside board member, is hopefully coordinating with Brightside on all planting efforts. At that point Katy called for a motion to approve the recommended planting site list. Commissioner Todd Eberle moved to approve the list and Cheri Bryant Hamilton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **IV. New business**

### **a. Schedule for September 16-17 visit and presentations by Ed Macie, Urban Forestry Coordinator, USDA Forest Service Southern Region – Katy Schneider**

Katy said that Ed Macie, an expert on tree ordinances, will be holding an ordinance workshop with the Policy Committee on September 16 from 4:00 to 6:00, probably located in the APCD Boardroom. The following day at 11:00, Ed will be presenting to the Metro Council Sustainability Committee about the politics involved in adopting a tree ordinance. Ed will also be a guest at the LMTAC meeting later that afternoon. Katy reminded Commissioners to watch for more details to be announced.

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **a. Scientific/Inventory Committee**

Margaret Carreiro, Co-chair of the Scientific/Inventory Committee said that the RFP for the tree master plan has gone out and the committee has not met since. She also said that she and Shane Corbin, Commissioner and Co-chair of the Scientific/Inventory Committee, have been answering questions from interested vendors.

### **b. Policy Committee**

Michelle stated that the committee will wrap-up its discussions on the Land Development Code at its next meeting. Katy said that the group is starting to research peer cities' tree ordinances. Todd mentioned that the group should also look at ordinances in other Kentucky cities because some small towns have more stringent ordinances than bigger cities.

Henry asked Mark White, Ex-officio Commissioner (Public Works and Assets) how watering has been going this summer and Mark responded that it has been on schedule. Mark also noted that there is a new example of porous pavement on Liberty St (between Armory and 6<sup>th</sup>) and that this is the first of many such projects.

Henry mentioned that he has seen many trees along interstates I-65 and I-64 being smothered by vines. Marty Storch, Gina O'Brien, and Mary Ellen Wiederwohl said that they have a project in the works to mitigate this problem.

## **VI. U of L grounds presentation – Aaron Boggs, Assistant Director for Maintenance, University of Louisville**

Aaron Boggs, Assistant Director for Maintenance at UofL began by talking about the University's status as a Tree Campus USA designee. He said that in order to attain this designation, the University had to meet Tree Campus USA's five standards:

1. Campus Tree Advisory Committee
2. Campus Tree Care Plan
3. Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures
4. Arbor Day Observance
5. Service Learning Project

Aaron said that inventory data has recently been collected for both the Belknap and Downtown Medical Center campuses. Aaron provided the Commission and guests with copies of a tree tour map of the Belknap Campus (map can be found at: <http://louisville.edu/sustainability/operations/Belknap%20Tree%20Tour.pdf>). He also said that the school is still planting ash trees despite the threat from the Emerald Ash Borer. Aaron said the University is committed to treating its current and future ash trees and its campuses will be a haven

for ash trees. He said that the University has planted over 300 new trees in the last two years and he stressed the importance of maintenance in order to keep these trees healthy. Aaron explained that the university has begun to look at planting trees like building a new facility or other infrastructure, wanting the right tree in the right place for a long term benefit.

An audience member, Dr. Lawrence Gettleman, was called on for a comment at this point and questioned Mr. Boggs about the disappearance of trees on Eastern Parkway, around the Medical Center, at the Dental School, at the Speed Museum, and other assorted locations both on and off UofL property. Dr. Gettleman questioned the University's intentions regarding the preservation of existing trees.

At this time, Katy noted that an ordinance would help alleviate the problem of trees being removed without due consideration of alternatives for preservation. Mesude also added that every tree has a life expectancy and that public safety has to take precedence over the preservation of unhealthy or ill-placed trees. She said that Parks does not remove trees unless it is absolutely necessary and that they replace every tree they remove.

Todd pointed out that the University will continue to grow and the loss of some trees is inevitable. Aaron explained that all of the trees that were removed from the UofL sites that Dr. Gettleman mentioned have been replaced, often with more going back on site than were removed.

Katy added that she was delighted that citizens feel free to attend LMTAC meetings and speak their minds. She reminded everyone that this is, indeed, a public process.

## **VII. Adjourn**

Henry adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2013 at the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District Boardroom.

**LMTAC Projects and Maintenance Committee Recommended Tree Planting Sites for Metro Tree Budget  
Fall 2013**

Planting area	Neighborhood(s)/ Area	Nearest arterial road	# of trees?	Source of maintenance	Notes
Downtown area, including: Metro Hall parking lot, Metro Housing Authority locations (including Dorskor Manor), Urban Gov't Center, Hancock St. (in the area of Liberty Green), and 9th St. (south of Broadway)	Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods	Main Street/ Broadway/ Barret	100	Combination of contract and city	These are sites identified by P&M Committee that will not require sidewalk cuts, but will increase the canopy in the urban core.
28th St in Parkland, including verge of Brandeis and Reynolds	Parkland	Broadway	100	Contractor	In tandem with other area public and private property plantings.
Rose Farm Park/SW Gov't Ctr	Pleasure Ridge Park	Dixie Highway	20	Brightside & Metro/Contract	Two locations are across Dixie Highway from each other, increase total area impact of each planting.
Aburndale area	Aburndale	New Cut Rd/ 3rd St Rd./ Southside Dr.	10 Fall; 40 Spring	Potentially Auburndale Neighborhood Association	Potential to use smaller caliper trees here.
Portland Presbyterian verge (right of way)	Portland	Portland Ave./NW Parkway	10	Church members and maintenance staff	Mike has worked with the church minister, who supports these plantings. This will add to plantings on two other sites on the church's adjoining property.
Garland Ave. and W. Kentucky St.	California	18th St./Dixie Highway	50	Brightside	These 50 trees match others planted with private dollars.
Hurstbourne Parkway median (Stonybrook to Bardstown Rd.)	Hurstbourne	Hurstbourne Parkway	10 (up to 100 in the future)	Contractor	St Hwy collaboration needed. Permit required. Mowing issues to be addressed. May need to be planted in spring 2014.

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